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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0118

LIMDIS

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS
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SUBJ: WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE IMPACT ON EUROPE AND
THE EIGHT

REF: STATE 32337

FOLLOWING IS ANALYSIS REQUESTED IN REFTEL:

1. SHORT-TERM EFFECTS: FRANCE AND THE EIGHT.
LUXEMBOURG'S CURRENT UNHAPPINESS WITH FRANCE IS
COUNTER-BALANCED BY AN EVEN GREATER UNHAPPINESS AT THE
CRISIS IN EC SOLIDARITY. FOLLOWING THE EC SPLIT AT
THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE (WEC) THE GOL MOVED
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FIRST TO TRY TO HEAL THE BREACH IN EUROPEAN UNITY. IN

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THE NEXT WEEKS, THE LUXEMBOURGERS WILL ASK THE US TO GIVE THE EC TIME TO CONSULT THE FRENCH ON FOLLOW-UP FOR THE WEC IN THE HOPE THAT PARIS WILL EVENTUALLY AGREE TO SOME FORM OF PARTICIPATION IN EITHER THE COORDINATING GROUP OR AT THE CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH THE LUXEMBOURGERS CONSIDER THAT ATLANTIC SOLIDARITY, ESPECIALLY IN THE STRATEGIC FIELD, IS A BASIC ELEMENT OF NATIONAL POLICY, MOST POLITICAL LEADERS HERE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE EUROPEAN OPTION WILL GRADUALLYI REPLACE THE TRADITIONAL CONCEPT OF ATLANTIC COMMUNITY AS THE CENTER OF LUXEMBOURG'S INTERNATIONAL FORUS. THE GOL IS ANGRY WITH THE FRENCH FOR UNCOMPROMISING AND HEAVY-HANDED RESISTANCE TO COOPERATION WITH THE US IN A FIELD OF PRIME JOINT INTEREST BUT THIS CRITICISM WILL LIKELY BE TEMPERED BY THIS COUNTRY'S MAIN OBJECTIVE: THE BUILDING OF A UNITED EUROPE AT THE FASTEST POSSIBLE PACE AND AT THE BEST TERMS CURRENTLY POSSIBLE. BECAUSE OF THE STRENGTH OF THE FRG AND THE REMOTENESS OF THE UK, THE GOL CAN ONLY ENVISION THIS UNITED EUROPE WITH FRANCE AS A FULL AND AC-TIVE MEMBER. THUS, DESPITE IRRITATION WITH FRENCH BEHAVIOR, LUXEMBOURG WILL RESIST ANY RAPID MOVES OF THE EC WITHOUT FRANCE, ESPECIALLY IN KEY AREAS. THE GOL PREFERS THE ALTERNATIVE OF HAVING FRANCE FRUSTRATING EC SOLIDARITY FROM THE INSIDE TO THE UNBEARABLE ALTERNATIVE OF CONCEIVING AN EC WITHOUT FRANCE.

2. LONG-TERM EFFECTS; EUROPEAN UNITY. DESPITE THE PROBA-BILITY OF AN ADVERSE FRENCH REACTION, THE GOL CAN BE EXPECTED TO WORK ESPECIALLY CLOSELY WITH ITS BENELUX PARTNERS IN FAVOR OF CLOSE, EVEN PRIVILEGED, TIES BETWEEN THE US AND THE EC. THE LUXEMBOURGERS BELIEVE THAT THERE IS NO CONTRADICTION IN PRINCIPLE BETWEEN CLOSE US-EC TIES AND EUROPEAN UNITY, ALTHOUGH DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PARTNERS WILL SOMETIMES OCCUR ON FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES. ON ENERGY MATTERS, FOR EXAMPLE, ALTHOUGH THE GOL APPRECIATES US OFFERS TO COORDINATE EMERGENCY SHARING AND LONG-TERM RESEARCH, THE LUXEMBOURGERS BELIEVE THAT THE EC HAS A BASICALLY DIFFERENT ECONOMIC, THUS POLITICAL, INTEREST IN DEALING WITH ARAB OIL SUPPLIERS. ON DEALING WITH THE ARABS, THE GOL ESTIMATES THAT AN EC CONSENSUS CAN
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PROBABLY BE REALIZED MORE EASILY THAN BROAD AGREEMENT WITH THE US. THE GOL WILL ALSO WATCH TO SEE IF THE US ATTEMPTS TO USE THE CRISIS WITHIN THE EC AS AN OPPOR-TUNITY TO WEAKEN EC SOLIDARITY. IF THE GOL EVER SENSES A US ATTEMPT TO DIVIDE THE EC, WE CAN EXPECT THE LUXEM-BOURGERS TO SHY AWAY FROM COOPERATION WITH US IN AN EFFORT TO FIRM UP THE "THREATENED" EC.

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3. IN SUM, LUXEMBOURG IS ABLE TO PLAY A SMALL ROLE (BUT A ROLE NEVERTHELESS) ON THE EUROPEAN AND WORLD SCENES ONLY BECAUSE THE EC EXISTS AND MANY BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE OF A UNITED EUROPE. FOR LUXEMBOURG TO ABANDON THE DREAM OF AN AUTONOMOUS AND UNITED EUROPE MEANS THAT ITS ENERGETIC AND AMBITIOUS POLITICAL LEADERSHIP WILL ALSO HAVE TO ABANDON ANY PRETENSE AT MAKING THIS COUNTRY LARGER IN INFLUCENCE THAN ITS TINY POPULATION OR TERRITORY WOULD LOGICALLY INDICATE. FOR THESE REASONS, THE OBSESSION TO KEEP THE EC ALIVE, REGARDLESS OF THE COMPROMISES NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THIS, WILL IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS BE THE PRIME MOVER OF LUXEMBOURG'S ATTITUDES AND POLICY. FARKAS

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